

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 00054 111132Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
TRSE-00 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03
CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 /083 W
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R 111030Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3998
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PROP, GY
SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) REQUESTS DECISION-
MAKING ROLE IN GOVERNMENT

REF: GEORGETOWN 0048

1. PPP DECLARED DURING PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE THAT AS PART OF GOG CALL FOR UNITY THEY MUST BE ALLOWED TO SHARE POWER AND HAVP ROLE IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. FURTHER, THAT PERSECUTION OF LEFT-WING FORCES MUST CEASE. PPP INDICATED THAT ITS 17-POINT PLAN COULD SERVE AS BASIS FOR ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT AND NATIONAL UNITY. PLAN CALLS FOR NATIONALIZATION OF BANKS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES, LAND REFORM, CENTRALLY PLANNED ECONOMY, CLOSER RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, AND PARTICIPATION OF PPP IN GOVERNMENT.

2. FONMIN WILLS REPLIED TO PPP CRITICISM OF BUDGET BY
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URGING OPPOSITION TO QUOTE MAKE PEACE WITH THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION UNQUOTE. DR. CHEDDI JAGAN, PPP LEADER, HAD CALLED FOR ALTERATION OF POLITICAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND IDEOLOGICAL SUPERSTRUCTURE TO CORRESPOND WITH ECONOMIC POLICIES WHICH HAD ENDED FOREIGN CONTROL OF GUYANESE ECONOMY. WILLS EMPHASIZED THAT HOSTILE ACTS DIRECTED AGAINST GUYANA BY EXTERNAL SOURCES HAD HAMPERED ECONOMIC

ADVANCEMENT. HE POINTED OUT THAT PPP FAILED TO APPRECIATE STRATEGIC POSITION OF GUYANA IN WORLD AND TO UNDERSTAND THAT APPLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM MUST BE WITHIN GIVEN SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CONDITIONS OF COUNTRY. PPP AGREED THAT GOG FACED THREATS FROM EXTERNAL FOES AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH CHANGE IN FOREIGN POLICY UNDER WILLS' GUIDANCE.

3. PNC'S CALL FOR UNITY AND PPP'S REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ROLE HAS POINTED OUT AGAIN THAT THE COMPETING SOCIALIST PARTIES DIFFER OVER TACTICS AND NOT BASIC POLICIES. COLUMNIST IN "CHRONICLE" NOTED THAT BUDGET DEBATE HAS PRODUCED QUOTE A GOOD DEAL OF INTELLECTUAL EXERCISE TO JUSTIFY THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM UNQUOTE.

4. COMMENT: PPP'S POLICY OF CRITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S SOCIALIST POLICIES ADOPTED AFTER IT TOOK SEATS IN PARLIAMENT IN 1975 WAS SIGN OF GOOD FAITH. PPP HAS CLEARLY BEEN DISAPPOINTED THAT GOVERNMENT HAS NOT RESPONDED POSITIVELY BY GRANTING IT AN INPUT INTO POLICY-MAKING. PPP HAS CONTINUED TO HIGHLIGHT INCONSISTENCIES IN GOVERNMENT'S SOCIALIST POLICIES, AND HAS BEEN BITTERLY CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO MEET ITS DEVELOPMENT GOALS. IF GOG DOES NOT RESPOND TO THE LATEST PPP INITIATIVE, PPP MAY THEN DECIDE TO UTILIZE ITS GUYANA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION (GAWU) TO CAUSE MAJOR LABOR CRISIS AT TIME OF MARCH SUGAR HARVEST TO WEAKEN PNC GOVERNMENT. CON-

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SIDERING THE RACIAL BACKGROUND OF OPPOSING PARTIES, ANY POLARIZATION OF PPP AND GOG COULD LEAD TO RENEWED TENSION AMONG THE PREDOMINANTLY BLACK PNC AND EAST INDIAN PPP THEREBY SEVERELY STRAINING STABILITY OF COUNTRY.
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